The Mint Master

October 2010 Volume 56, Issue 10

Newsletter of the Utah Numismatic Society

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This Month's Program:

Grading Seminar
Presented by
Bob Campbell

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Presidents Message

Hello Everyone,
The other day, there was big
financial news: the
recession is over. According
to the NBER (National
Bureau of Economic
Research), the recession
ended in June of 2009. I
thought to myself, really?
Nobody's bothered to tell the
millions of unemployed
Americans--not to mention
the millions of unemployed
workers around the world.

Warren Buffet made the following pronouncement: "I think we're in a recession until real, per-capita GDP gets back to where it was before (the recession

began)". I think he must define what a recession is differently than the NBER.

And then you can find economists like Marc Faber who think Ben Bernacke who runs the U.S. Federal Reserve Bank should be fired because of the 0% interest policy, which partly lowers the dollar's value as it trades against other currencies & also devalues it's purchasing power.

Pick your poison, as the saying goes. As for myself, I've come the conclusion that you can find an argument for any line of reasoning you



want. In the meantime, I'll keep slowly but surely doing my best to put away a little bit of gold & silver, just in case one of these positions is right...or in case none of them are.

I'm looking forward to seeing you at our next meeting on October 12th!

"There are three kinds of lies: lies, damned lies, and statistics." Mark Twain

Tom Jensen

October Meeting Details.

Meetings - Second Tuesday of each month (October 12th)

Time - 7:00 P.M.

Location - Columbus Community Center; 2531 South 400 East, SLC

Greetings - Tom Jensen

Mini Exhibit - TBA

News & Views - Robie Cagle

Coin Quiz - Larry Kimura

Refreshments- UNS (Eldon Farnsworth)

UNS Schedule for 2010/11

Oct.-Grading Seminar Speaker - TBA

Nov.-Bourse/Elections

Dec.-Christmas Dinner

Jan. 2011 - TBA

Feb. 2011 - TBA

Mar. 2011 - TBA

Apr. 2011 - TBA

May 2011 - TBA

Do you have something to say? Say it here. Contact the editor with your comment or information you would like to share with other club members. There's always room in the 'Mint Master' for your views, information, and opinions.

Interesting Coins of the Month

Aluminum Coinage









Pure aluminum was first produced in 1827. Initially aluminum was considered a precious metal as it was very expensive to produce. It wasn't until 1883 that an inexpensive process was developed to produce aluminum in quantity. In 1854 aluminum was more expensive than gold or platinum and a bar of pure aluminum was exhibited in 1855 at a Paris exposition. The use of aluminum by the U.S. mint occurred much later than the early dates on most aluminum coins. Virtually all pattern coins made out of aluminum regardless of the date were not struck (or manufactured) until the 1880's. There are many different coins struck during this time by the U.S. Mint including minor coins, normal silver coins, and also coins normally struck in gold. Entire proof sets of coins are known in aluminum. Most pattern coins struck in aluminum are also known in other metals also. They were most likely struck as novelties or as favors for well known collectors of the time.

UNS Program for October's Meeting

For our October meeting Bob Campbell will cover coin grading with an emphasis on certified coins. If you have a slabbed coin and have questions as to the grade or wonder about the possibility of 'cracking it out' in order to receive a higher grade please bring it to the meeting. Bob will give you his opinion and grade review for your coin.

Prizes of the Month

Junior Prize 1986 Proof Comm. Half Dollar

Membership Prize 1885-O MS63 Morgan Silver Dollar

Promptness Prize 1928-S Standing Liberty Quarter

Grand Prize Dos Peso Gold Coin

1960 NGC PF67 Quarter
1992 Olympic Dollar
Roll of "P" Yellowstone Quarters
1978 Mint Set
1979 Mint Set
1907 Indian Cent
2007 NGC PF70 UC Silver Montana Quarter
1914 Silver George V Florin
(2) British Pennies / George V & George VI
2007 NGC PF70 UC Wyoming Quarter
2005 UNS Silver Medal Wendover Airfield
2008 Encased Arizona Quarter
UNS Christmas Medal / Santa Claus
2008 UNS Silver Medal / Trolly Square
1902 AU British sixpence







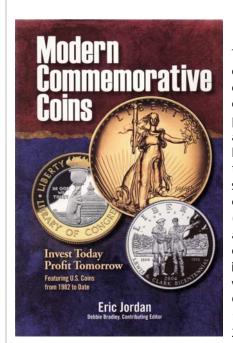








How many of these pictures can you identify?



Available at coin shops and the internet.

Published by Krause.

List price - \$22.99

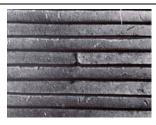
Book Review

This is a new work on commemoratives. It is a high quality paperback in full color consisting of 256 pages. It is filled profusely with color images and almost as many tables and charts. However this is where I believe that the author went wrong. To say it kindly, this is a classic example of how to use statistics (i.e. charts and tables) to say anything you wish. The comparisons made are simply irrelevant. One comparison made was the investment potential of Carson City Morgan Dollars to the "W" mint Silver Eagles from 2006/7/8. The statistic used was the GSA populations to the mintages of Silver Eagles. Now maybe I am wrong but my advice to any investor would not make comparisons like this. Another table is titled "Proof Type Coin Rating For The Last 200 Years." It is structured by population and number 52 on the list is the 2008

Monroe First Spouse Gold coin while number 54 is proof Trade Dollars from 1873-1885. I don't know about vou but I don't believe any First Spouse Gold is in the same league as Proof Trade dollars. Maybe in 500 years but even then I doubt it. If you collect modern commemoratives, that is up to you and your interests. If everybody collected the same thing the hobby would be boring. But just remember, collect what you like but don't think that the investment potential of modern commems will ever be what the classics are. Sure, there is the occasional modern coin which excels, and if you want some pretty pictures and mintage stats this is the book for you. Otherwise, invest in a Red Book, it has the same data.

Doug Nyholm





World Class Expert Quiz! Identify this coin!

Coin Quiz & Trivia (Canada)

What was the last year Roman numerals were used on the 1oz gold Eagle?'

1990 b. 1987

d. 1993

What was the last year San Francisco struck silver eagles? 2.

c. 1996

1989

d. 1991

How many coins are contained in the 2009 mint set? 3.

a. 32

c. 34 d. 38

b.

What was the last year commemorative halves were minted prior to 1982?

1952 c. 1954

d. 1948

1955

Gold commemoratives were minted in all but which year?

1903

c. 1916

1915 h.

d. 1902

Answers to last month's questions.

1) 1987 2) 1996 3) 1967 4) \$2500 5) 1916C

Did you catch the error on #1. The answer is 1987 which was not included in the choices.

Young Numismatist's Corner

Trivia

E PLURIBUS UNUM (one out of many) first appeared on the 1795 Liberty Cap-Heraldic Eagle gold half eagle.

The Peace Dollar represents the first time where the word "Peace" was used on a coin of any nation.

The largest gold nugget on record was found in 1869 in Victoria, Australia. It weighed 208 pounds.

The motto IN GOD WE TRUST first appeared on a coin of the U.S. in 1864, during the Civil War.

The smallest monetary unit ever issued in the U.S. was the half cent. It was minted from 1793 through 1857.

The Smithsonian Coin Collection has approximately 850,000 coins.



PCGS codes used on 'Genuine' Slabs which do not merit a numerical grade but have been confirmed as a genuine coin.

Counterfeit Corner









Pick Up Point

Crudeness Not Gold

Frequency Encountered Very Common

Identification Difficulty
Easy

<u>Value</u> Very High

COUNTERFIET

The Blake & Company \$20 gold coin is an often encountered counterfeit. It was manufactured by the ten's of thousands in 1969 to promote sales of the Gold Duster automobile. There are two genuine specimens known, one in the Smithsonian and the other held in a bank collection. It is easy to detect the counterfeit as it is a brass copy and has a crude appearance but it is more difficult to convince the owner that his coin is not worth a fortune.

Feature Article - Collecting Confederate Currency

Have you ever considered collecting Confederate currency? How does one go about forming a collection? What are the different ways to form a collection? First of all let me begin with a little background. Confederate currency was issued beginning in 1861 and ended in 1864. Generally the earlier issues are scarcer than later issues and most 1864 dated issues are quite common. If you want to form a complete collection the first question is, "what is a complete collection." Like most numismatic collections there are virtually hundreds of variances and possibilities to complete a collection and if you want every issue, variety, contemporary counterfeit, then I suggest you give up now, even if your wallet rivals Bill Gates. There are endless varieties, most of which have very subtle differences, also, collecting Confederates by contemporary counterfeits is very popular and books have been written completely on this area. To simplify the process a little bit Confederate currency is usually catalogues by 'T' numbers such as T-5, T-60 etc. There are technically 72 types of Confederate currency but in reality there are only 70. What then of the other 2? T-47 and T-48 are now considered fantasy issues or possibly patterns. However they were once collected as part of a complete type set and are included in most references. If you wish to acquire either of these they will set you back a few thousand dollars. You can see what I mean in regard to collecting Confederate counterfeits, they are popular and widely collected among aficionados of these notes. All but about a half a dozen different notes are readily available, most for a reasonable cost. Many can be obtained for less than \$100 each and the remaining will set you back a few hundred each. The tough ones are T-1, T-2, T-3, T-4, T-27 and T-35. Before I go on, one word about condition, as with every numismatic endeavor condition is very important and sometimes paramount to the value of the item. Most Confederate currency can be obtained in decent condition, which actually is a testament to the currency because many issues were printed on very poor quality paper. If you desire to assemble an XF/AU or CU set plan on spending a bunch of cash. To discuss the tough notes I will first begin with the T-1 through T-4. These are very distinctive notes classified as 'Montgomery' notes. They are green in color, unlike virtually any other Confederate notes and their face values respectively T-1 to T-4 is \$1000, \$500, \$100, and \$50. The \$1000 T-1 note begins above \$15K and that is for an impaired example. The \$500 note is similarly priced while the \$100 and \$50 notes will begin at around \$5k for impaired notes. The T-27 is another tough note, It is a \$10 example which like the T-35 note was discontinued early, only 8,576 T-27 notes were issued. The T-27 will begin at \$3-4K for an impaired example while an average non-impaired note will start at \$5K. Finally the T-35 is nicknamed the "Indian Princess" due to the vignette on the right side of the note. Like the T-27 it too has a small number which were issued, 7,160 in total. Its value begins at \$5k for impaired notes and jumps close to \$10k for an average circulated example. Don't let these six rarities stop you because a very nice looking set of all the others, excluding these six, can be a very attractive and satisfying collection. After all, a lot of us have put together sets of Flying Eagle and Indian Head cents and never added the 1856 FE. One additional item I have not mentioned is the practice of cancelling Confederate notes. All examples are known in cancelled condition. This was done in a number of ways and is also referred to 'Cut Cancels." That term says it all, when redeemed; the note was cancelled by cutting it in a number of different manners. Types of cuts used were half-moon cuts about 1/2" wide in the borders of the note, also triangular cuts in the same manner, and some were simple cuts in the center of the note by a series of crossing razor cuts. Hole punched and stamp cancelled notes also exits. Although cancelled notes are lower in value than their counterparts they are collected and referenced in most Confederate catalogues. One may even form a specialized collection of these cancelled notes. Too bad we didn't all began a collection decades ago or in our youth, many Confederate notes were for years thought to be worthless souvenirs of the Civil War but are now collected and all are worth multiples, at minimum, of their face value. Even if you only collect one example or a complete set you will have fun and learn quite a bit of history you never knew.

Pictures of Confederate Currency appear on the "Back Page"





Identify This Coin

Can you identify the coin pictured above? You know the date but identify the denomination and mint.

Good Luck!

[Last month's coin was a 'spiked chin' half cent of 1804.]

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<u>www.rustcoin.com</u> Contact Josh Rust for all your numismatic needs.

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If you are looking to sell you collection please give us a call! We also trade and sell coins. We love to help our customers with coins they need, so if you have a want list we would be happy to help you out. We've been in the coin business for 45 years.



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Special Ad

Chris Larson has the following for sale:

- Almost complete UNS medal set 1970-2007 Missing only 3 medals.
- 2. Scarce 1st edition 'Tokens of Utah' by Harry Campbell Asking \$100.00!

Contact Chris at 801-943-3101

This is a paid advertisement. If anyone in the UNS has material for sale why not place an ad in the Mintmaster?

Contact your editor, Doug Nyholm for details.



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Utah Numismatic Society

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comcast.net

Your input, suggestions and written articles are always appreciated

Membership Form

plication for membership in the Utah Numismatic Society / UNS
me(s) of applicant(s)
dress:
one Number;E-mail Address:
w would you like to receive the newsletter? [] Email / Preferred[] Postal Mail
onsor:
nen & Where we meet – Ilumbus Community Center Second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM 31 South 400 East t Lake City, UT 84115
nual Dues:
Family \$25 [] Adult (18 and older) \$15 [] Junior \$5
lividual Lifetime Memberships are \$250.00. There is no family Lifetime Membership

PLAN TO ATTEND!





Comments, Suggestions, and articles should be submitted to:

douglas.nyholm@comcast .net

Confederate Currency



T-1 \$1000Montgomery Note

T-3 \$100 Montgomery Note



Printable in Confederate.
States Stock being Garband place the Mangachun garband place

T-27 Rare \$10 Confederate Note

T-35 Rare 'Indian Princess' \$5





Typical Common \$10 Note

Cut-Cancelled Confederate \$5